

**Argumentative Essay Writing Guide (Grades 9-11)**

<b>Statement of Purpose/ Focus and Organization</b>	<b>Evidence/Elaboration</b>	<b>Editing/Conventions</b>
<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Claim is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained.</li><li>• Claim is introduced and communicated appropriately for the purpose, audience, and task.</li><li>• Alternate or opposing claims are clearly addressed</li></ul> <p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating unity and completeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A variety of transitional strategies are consistently used to effectively clarify the relationships between and among ideas.</li><li>• Progression of ideas from beginning to end is logical.</li><li>• Introduction and conclusion are effective for audience and purpose.</li><li>• Appropriate sentence structure variety produces strong connections among ideas.</li></ul>	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer's claim, including the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response achieves substantial depth that is specific and relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Claims are supported with relevant evidence from credible sources and clear reasoning.</li><li>• Use of evidence from sources is complete and smoothly integrated and cited.</li><li>• A variety of effective elaborative techniques are used.</li></ul> <p>The response demonstrates strategic use of language to produce clear communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Precise language clearly and effectively expresses ideas.</li><li>• Use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose.</li></ul>	<p>The response displays adequate command of grade-level and preceding-level conventions of writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed.</li><li>• Use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling is adequate.</li></ul>

**References and Citations**

When referring to evidence and information from passages, students should use paraphrasing and short quotations. To credit sources, students should use informal, in-text citations (e.g., MLA author or title tags).